



# Job Corps disABILITY News

June 2006

A RESOURCE FOR JOB CORPS DISABILITY COORDINATORS

## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) has announced that the 2006 poster for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is now available to the public. This year's theme, ***Americans with Disabilities: Ready for the Global Workforce***, was announced by USDOL Secretary Elaine L. Chao in May.



NDEAM is a perfect time to promote awareness and showcase the *abilities* of students with disabilities within the Job Corps environment, within the community-at-large and most importantly, with employers. Suggested activities include:

- Learn about other Disability Awareness Month events in your area and offer to provide information about the Job Corps program at the event or assist in conducting the event.
- Invite a trainer to the center to provide staff or center-wide training about a disability-related topic.
- Invite disability service providers (vocational rehabilitation, center for independent living, services for the blind, local high school) to the center so they can learn more about the Job Corps program and to discuss how the organizations and center can work together to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
- Contact the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) <http://www.dol.gov/odep/> for publications designed to assist people with disabilities who are seeking employment and educate employers about hiring people with disabilities.
- Invite a speaker to the center to do a presentation on a disability-related topic. Suggested presenters include an athlete with a disability, a person from a guide dog or assistance-dog organization, a panel of presenters with disabilities who could discuss their workplace accommodations, and an employer from

the local area who is recognized for disability employment practices.

- Partner with a disability organization to conduct a community service project (e.g., clean up a local park, waterway, recreational area).
- Work with local business industry council to set up a job fair or open house featuring center trades and show types of accommodations and how they are used in that particular field.
- Complete a project for people with disabilities in the community (e.g., construct a ramp to make a person's home more accessible, make repairs to a group home, conduct a fundraiser for a local program that trains assistance dogs and is dependent on donations).
- Highlight the activities of students with disabilities in the center newsletter.
- Gather information on hiring individuals with disabilities and disseminate to employers, including development of flyers and newsletter perhaps featuring students with disabilities who have been successfully placed.

## Assistive Technology News! Read&Write 8 Gold

Read&Write 8 Gold can be a very useful accommodation for students with reading disabilities by providing them access to information. Read on!



Read&Write 8 Gold features text to speech and scanning capabilities. Printed Documents and text can be scanned in or opened from anywhere on the computer.

The text to speech will read each word, sentence, paragraph or selected text. By having their materials read to them, the students will be able to identify mistakes in punctuation, spelling and meaning. Most importantly, it affords access to information for students with reading disabilities.

<http://www.texthelp.com/rwg.asp?q1=products&q2=rwg>

## Job Corps Resources

### Job Corps DisABILITY Website

<http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/>

### CIS Disability Data Collection

[http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/orientation\\_prh\\_2.htm](http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/orientation_prh_2.htm)

### Supporting Students with LD (Recently Updated!)

<http://jccdrcc.jobcorps.gov/ld>

### New PowerPoint Presentations

#### **Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities,**

Valerie Cherry, PhD, Principal Mental Health Consultant

#### **Disclosure, Self-Advocacy, Self-Determination, and Transition Preparation,**

Nancie Payne, MS, President, Payne & Associates, Inc.

**Assistive Technology,** Diane Fairchild, School for Integrated Academics & Technologies & Carole Fisher, ELL Coordinator, SIATech

**Accommodating Students,** Debbie Jones, San Francisco Regional Disability Consultant, Office of Job Corps

[http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/resources\\_training.htm](http://jcdisability.jobcorps.gov/html/resources_training.htm)

## One-Stop Disability Program Navigator

Some One-Stops house a Disability Program Navigator (DPN) who helps people with disabilities "navigate" through the challenges of seeking work. Navigators also inform individuals with disabilities about available work support programs.

DPNs can serve as a valuable community resource to both Job Corps center staff and students with disabilities. Center staff can connect with DPNs by asking them to:

- Participate on center community relations or industrial relations councils.
- Conduct disability-related training for staff and/or students (e.g., topics could include disclosure, self-determination/self-advocacy,

transition planning, job interviewing considerations, etc.).

- Participate on center Interdisciplinary Teams to aide in transition planning for students moving from the career development phase to the career transition phase of the program.

Disability coordinators or business community liaisons should contact their local One-Stop to determine whether or not a DPN is housed at that location.

Use the following link to learn more about the Disability Program Navigator Initiative and to obtain a list of DPN state contacts.

[http://www.doleta.gov/disability/new\\_dpn\\_grants.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/disability/new_dpn_grants.cfm)

## Fifth Annual Job Accommodation Network (JAN) Conference

### *Empowering Employers to Build an Inclusive Workforce*

Registration is now open for JAN's fifth annual conference September 18-19, 2006 in Boston, MA, and all disability coordinators are encouraged to attend!

This conference will feature three tracks: ADA/Legal, Accommodation, and Innovative Employment Practices. There are many training sessions that will have valuable application to the Job Corps program. Below is a list of the types of sessions that might be of particular interest to Job Corps disability coordinators:

- *Workplace Accommodations: Low Cost, High Impact*
- *Evacuation Planning: Creating a Safe Work [Training]\* Environment for All Employees*
- *Learning Disabilities: Finding Practical Solutions to Workplace Accommodation Situations*
- *Shaping Your Corporate [Center]\* Culture to be Inclusive of People with Disabilities*
- *Focus on Technology*
- *Addressing Psychiatric Stigma at the Workplace [Center]\**
- *A Practical Approach to Accommodating Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities*

\*Inserted Job Corps related terms to show applicability to the Job Corps program

Registration Information can be found at: <http://conference.jan.wvu.edu/>

Participation is limited to 300 so register early!